

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/30/2008 has been entered.
2. Claims 102-126, 154, 158-165, 167-169, and 171-175 are currently pending in this application. Claims 102-103, 105-109, 114, 120, 123, 125, 154, 159-162, 165, 167-169, and 171 have been amended.
3. In view of the prior Office action, the 112 rejection of the claims has been withdrawn due to the Amendments made thereto. However, the prior art rejections are maintained as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
5. Claims 102-109, 113-114, 117, 119-126, 154, 158-162, 164-165, 169, 171-175 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (US Pat. 5,215,558).

Moon teaches an electrical dust collector which includes an ion generator; the ion generator comprising a first array of electrodes 1; a second array of electrodes 2; the first and second electrodes are ion emitter and ion collectors respectively; an array of auxiliary electrodes

Art Unit: 1794

4 between the first and second arrays; an array of accelerating electrodes 3 interposed between the second electrodes and partially downstream from the second electrodes. Figure 3(b) illustrates the accelerating electrode 22 having sharp teeth 23 that act as an ionizing unit (see paragraph bridging col. 1 & 2). Thus, the accelerating electrode of Moon meets the requirement of the claimed trailing electrode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

7. Claims 109-112, 116, 118, 163, and 168 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon as applied above.

Moon does not teach the claimed shapes of the third electrodes. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that configuration of an electrode would have been designed for the purpose of obtaining desired results such as improved gas flow patterns and properties with efficient corona current densities and high potential field, while preventing particle erosion of the electrode surface.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments, filed on 1/30/2008, with respect to the claims have been fully considered, but not found persuasive.

In response to Applicants' arguments that Moon does not teach the trailing (third) electrode to be downstream from the second electrode, it is first noted that the presently claimed

invention is directed to a trailing (third) electrode to be at least partially downstream from the second electrode. Thus the accelerating electrodes of Moon read on the presently claimed invention.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thao T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton I. Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thao T. Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

Application/Control Number: 10/074,209
Art Unit: 1794

Page 5